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TUESDAY
JANUARY 26, 1954

Delegation meeting this morning. Afterwards I sped to the infirmary and had a backside shot of penicillin which I hope will reduce my lymphatic neck glands, swollen out for the past two weeks like chicken legs.

The gossip is that poor Carl McCardle had a humilating press briefing last night. He is amiable, intensely loyal to the Secretary, but muddle-headed and almost incapable of clear oral expression.

Yesterday evening we had whipped up a journey to Moscow to be taken by Janet, Frank Nash, E., myself, and Avis as hostess. This morning the prospect is less enticing. Foster would have to ask Molotov as a personal favor to arrange for the necessary visas, and since the two will shortly be locked in bitter altercation it does not seem a propitious occasion.

Newspapers last night and this morning have featured the plane crash of Ernest and Mary Hemingway in Uganda. Last night they were presumed dead. Obituaries and mourning vied with the four ministers' conference for space. Today it is reported [redacted] they have survived not one but two crashes and are intact. Papa is hard to kill. I am [redacted] relieved for I am devoted to him.

I went to the Am Zoo Hotel to pick up Preston Grover for lunch. The food in Berlin is only adequate as regards cookery, but the beer is true nectar.

Tommy telephoned me from Paris. All is temporarily quiet there on the EDC front. He is forwarding me a message from Monnet.

Zero weather in Berlin but clear, the ground well covered with snow. We are all supplied with Army cars and soldier drivers, brought in from various posts in Germany. Mine is a cheerful colored man who had never before been in this city but who has already developed a remarkable facility for finding his way through its wide-flung labyrinths.

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Preston, Bill Stoneman, Don Cook and I lunched together at Schlicter's. They were most condemnatory of poor McCardle's briefing last evening and said if he were continued in that function there would be a press revolt. They were not much interested in Molotov's opening statement but hope for fireworks later.

Foster led off this afternoon with a pungent rebuttal of Molotov's speech. There were two references in it that I would have preferred the omission of -- one relating to Yalta and the other to the Versailles Treaty. A response was swiftly forthcoming from Mr. M., who looks like a German bank president, with his large square head, craggy jaw, intelligent but seemingly insensitive face. I thought the reply banal and unimpressive, with none of the fire so habitual when the Russians really want to be disagreeable. The Chinese Communists were, of course, pictured as men of peace who had intervened in Korea to ward off attacks by the American aggressors threatening the integrity of their Yalu River frontier.

Foster said we would not agree to a five-power meeting including the Chinese Communists on any such terms as proposed by Molotov. As to the agenda advocated by Mr. M., he did not like it but would accept it in order not to waste time. Molotov now raised the agenda question as if it had been agreed. Bidault, today's Chairman, stated it had not yet been brought formally before the meeting but he was ready to deal with it, which he did, saying it was illogical and ill-conceived but, so as not to engage battle on trivialities, the French Delegation would accept it as a basis for discussions.

Eden was next in order to speak. He did not like the Soviet agenda, either in order of points or in wording, but would ~~accept it to accelerate the business~~ of the Conference and a discussion of the real problems, of which the affairs

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of Germany and Austria were obviously the prime ones for consideration.

We dined tonight at the Conants' with them and Henry Parkman.

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